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LB 498

SENATOR CUDABACK: Mr. President, and members, I will just take a minute here, but I had a constituent call me and inform me of an incident that happened in his area, and they are EMTs, but, unfortunately, it takes about eight or nine minutes for them to go to the farthest area. And, unfortunately, this person had a heart attack, and, unfortunately, they did not have one of these machines. These EMTs thought if they would have had one of these machines available, that person could have been saved. Unfortunately, he was not saved. So I just think this bill of Senator Wickersham's is a great idea, and I can't see any reason that why not this body should not pass it. The life you save might be yours or mine, and it just absolutely can happen. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Cudaback. For discussion on the committee amendments to LB 498, Senator Vrtiska.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Thank you, Mr. Lieutenant Governor. Just a word of endorsement for the amendments and also for the bill. I think all of us recognize at one time many communities did not buy defibrillators because they took so much training and were difficult to work, and many people were somewhat leery of them. But with the new system they have in place now that's so much easier to use, I think only the right thing to do and that's provide these EMTs...I was an EMT for a good many years until I came up here and could not serve anymore, but I still am interested in the health care of people in particularly rural areas, and these machines are certainly an asset for EMTs and for rescue units. And with that, I certainly endorse the amendments as well as the bill. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Vrtiska. Seeing no further lights, Senator Wickersham to close on LB 49...excuse me, Senator Jensen to close on the committee amendments.

SENATOR JENSEN: Thank you, Mr. President. I will just make one comment. The amendment also adds the emergency clause to the bill, and the reason is to get these out and make them available. With that, I'd just urge for the adoption of the committee amendments.